





## Talking Points

- Telling our story and statewide impact
- Success of the program
- Challenges of the program
- Taking the program into 2014
  - Convey the Process
  - Metrics and Evaluation
  - Timeline
- Q&A

# Telling Our Story

Original Vision Statement:

*To provide unified State resources  
to stimulate local economic  
activity and to promote  
sustainability throughout Indiana.*



# Telling Our Story

- A multi-agency Partnership program for comprehensive community development.
- A Resource program aimed at leveraging private/public resources that best enhance the community and drive market forces.
- A Planning program that provides clear direction and action steps for communities with or without Stellar designation.





# Stellar Communities - Maps

2011 - 2013

# 2011-2013 Stellar Communities Finalists

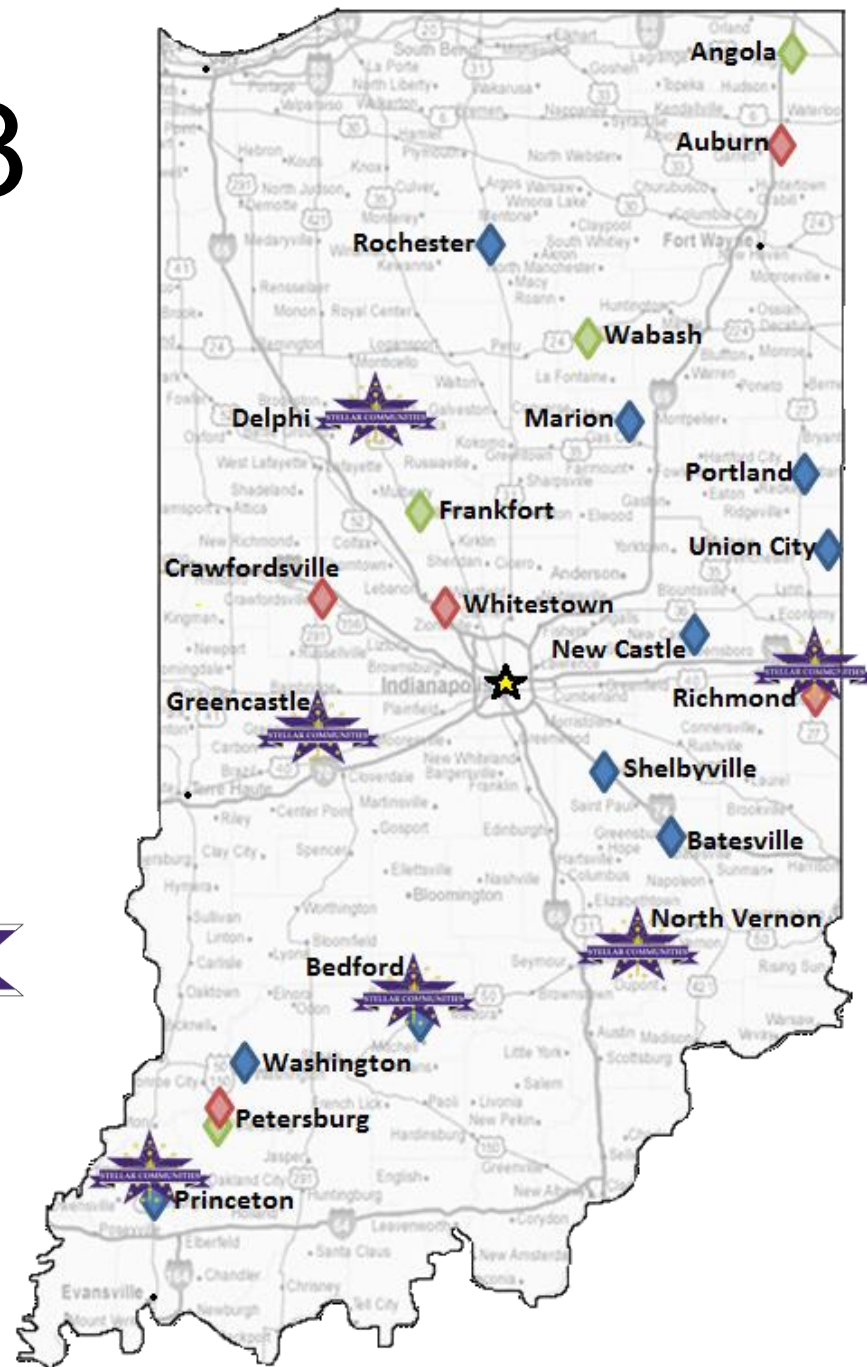


2011 Finalists – ◆

2012 Finalists – ◆

2013 Finalists – ◆

Stellar Communities – ◆



# Telling Our Story

Since 2010:

- Letters of Interest from 65 communities
- 21 Strategic Investment Plans
- 6 Pilot Communities



# Statewide Impact

- Investment \$\$\$
- Jobs
- Community Examples
  - Raise levels of conversation
  - Planning
  - Collaboration/3P





# Success of the Program

- Raises the level of conversation in your community
- Produces unexpected outcomes and unites commonalities (aha! Moments)
- Partnered Investment from the State
- True benefit is the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)
- Transformative Nature
- Federal Recognition



# Challenges of the Program

- Language in Communicating
  - “Grant”, “Intent”, “Lottery”
- Perception
  - Town Discussion
    - Just as likely to participate based on scale
  - Those with most local \$\$ wins
- Technical Assistance
  - Clearer direction of metrics
- State Partners



# Moving Forward

- Definitions:
  - Information sessions
  - Letter of Interest (LOI)
  - Criteria for LOI
  - Finalist Community
  - Strategic Investment Plan (SIP)
  - Site Visit
  - Pilot Community
  - Funding Platforms



# Moving Forward

- Criteria for Stellar 2014 Letter of Interest
  - Comprehensive plan to 7 years
  - If including downtown revitalization, community must be a member of Indiana Main Street
  - Letter needs be descriptive of the targeted area while relating to the community and region.



# Moving Forward

## Criteria for Stellar 2014 Letter of Interest (continued)

- Must describe the key stakeholders and the community history of successful completion of multi-projects
- Must be in compliance and in good standing with agencies including previous engagement



# Moving Forward

## Criteria for Stellar 2014 Letter of Interest (continued)

- Must describe project readiness.
- Signed by the Chief Elected Official
- 5 page narrative PLUS a good map of the community PLUS an information sheet



# From LOI to SIP

Finalists proceed to the Strategic Investment Plan (SIP) process.

- Selected from LOI's
- Follow up Technical Assistance
- Time sensitive



# SIP-Evaluation Criteria

- Project visibility (Ten years from now, will we be able to see where the investments occurred?)
- Community Leadership/ability to manage (Strength of the Local Team)
- Regional Impact (Will the investment in the community create a bigger regional benefit?)





# SIP-Evaluation Criteria

- Fundable (Are the projects fundable through funding requirements?)
- Community Engagement (Has the community bought into the vision?)
- Youth (Does this benefit, attract, or retain future stars?)
- Partnerships--(Successful leveraging off state funds to private & community investment--3P)



# SIP--Evaluation Criteria

- X-factor (The local dynamic and uniqueness of the plan)
- Document of agreement of partnership (MOU)
- Outstanding findings (any problems with grant administration on current projects)
- Site control of project areas



# Moving Forward

- PROPOSED Timeline:
  - January: Information Session
  - Mid-January: Opening of LOI window
  - Early February: LOI's due
  - Late February: Finalist Selections
  - March 6: Finalist Workshop
  - April 24: submission of SIP's
  - May: Site Visits
  - June: Announcement





# Q & A



INDIANA OFFICE OF  
**Community & Rural Affairs**  
*Where Rural Matters*





**Thank You!!!**



## Contact Information

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